



MAXWELL YUN—THE TECH

MIT's Class of 2024 receives their brass rats at Ring Delivery, held at the Fairmont Copley Hotel in Boston, Sunday.

Ring Delivery for sophomores held at Fairmont Copley Hotel

Refreshments, live music, professional photos at event

By Kristina Chen
PUBLISHER

Ring Delivery for the Class of 2024 was held April 24 from 7–10 p.m. at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston. In addition to receiving their brass rats, sophomores in attendance enjoyed refreshments, live music, and professional photography.

Around 1,000 of 1,071 sophomores attended the event. Prior to the event, sophomores could be seen taking photographs at Killian Court.

Attire for Ring Delivery was black tie. Plus ones were not permitted due to venue capacity, limited resources, and COVID-19 policies.

Food options included a charcuterie table, short rib grilled cheese, heirloom tomato bruschetta, vegetarian spring rolls and rice paper rolls, and doughnuts.

In an interview with *The Tech*, Ring Delivery Chair Isabella Struckman '24 said that planning for the event began mid-November to early December.

According to Struckman, the Class of 2024 Ring Delivery was “incredibly influenced” by that of the

Class of 2023, though aspects were changed “based on [the Class of 2023's Ring Committee's] advice, our own class, and our individual ideas.”

Similar to the Class of 2023's Ring Delivery, the event included an ice sculpture of the ring and a live band. The live performer, Chance Emerson, was “fantastic,” Struckman said, adding that a highlight of her night was “dancing with [her] friends to the live music.”

“Ringcomm put so much effort and work into the event and it re-

Ring Delivery, Page 3

Going behind the scenes of ‘MIT: Regressions,’ Institute's history

The documentary is set to premiere at 7 p.m. on May 1 in room 26-100, will cover up to the COVID-19 pandemic

By Srinidhi Narayanan
NEWS EDITOR

“MIT: Regressions (a history of the Institute),” a documentary film by Luke Igel '22 and Wesley Block '22 is set to premiere through the Lecture Series Committee (LSC) Sunday, May 1 at 7 p.m. in 26-100. The film inspects the history of MIT, MIT's relationship with the federal government, and MIT's involvement in national events, to name a few. The Tech spoke with Igel about the making of the movie.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

The Tech: Could you provide a summary in a few sentences of what the film is about?

Luke Igel: MIT regressions is a feature length documentary film that Wesley and I are working on. It covers the history of MIT from World War II up until COVID-19, because that's an 80 year period in which student life was completely uninterrupted. And most of it is on

film. It has allowed us to find different themes and arcs; in this time, the Institute went from a sleepy university to the world's premier capital of technology research.

We go into some specific things like who is actually funding MIT's expansion throughout each period. We find that it starts out with the federal government. As the U.S. government's influence in MIT's budget wanes over time, we see the different problems that MIT faces. The different problems that MIT students and professors begin to notice also shift.

The movie covers many many different themes, and I view it more as an odyssey of countless different threads that took place, whether it's student life, particular professors who made a name for themselves, the presidents of MIT what each of them contributed, and also the U.S. presidents and what they were able to with their effects on the growth of the Institute.

A lot of our promotional materials meant to kind of capture this.

That is to say, they're meant to capture the many different threads that we're trying to show in so many different sources of footage. There are probably thousands of camera people involved. We really want to expose people to this hypnotic series of images and photos to really transport them.

TT: How does such an involved project as this come about? What prompted you to undertake this project, where did you source the footage from, how long have you worked on it for?

Igel: I took a gap year during Fall 2020, when COVID was peaking. During that time, I saw this documentary by Adam Curtis [“HyperNormalisation”], in which he took the entire archive of the BBC and just created this sweeping hypnotic history. I realized you could do a very similar treatment of MIT's footage.

My friend Wesley and I are in the

Regressions, Page 2

Draft of Strategic Plan on Graduate Advising and Mentoring released

Institute to establish new committees to encourage better mentoring community

By Shelley Choi
NEWS EDITOR

MIT announced the release of the Strategic Plan on Graduate Advising and Mentoring draft in an email sent to the community April 27. According to the email, the plan will be finalized after incorporating feedback given “over the next several weeks.”

In the email, the Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Advising and Mentoring co-chairs, Institute Professor and Head of the Chemical Engineering department Paula Hammond '84 PhD '93 and Associate Provost and Professor of Chemistry Tim Jamison, focused on three critical priorities: providing “professional skill development and lifelong learning in mentorship,” developing a system for “graduate student feedback,” and placing “mechanisms to prevent negative advising and mentoring experiences” and relevant addresses to such issues.

This follows the Institute's efforts and the Committee's vision for MIT to become a “culture of excellence in mentoring and advising, one that

fosters the well-being, research, and professional development of all graduate students, faculty, and thesis supervisors.”

The Committee proposed to meet each of these priorities by expanding MIT's “current infrastructure” to include the Center for Excellence in Graduate Advising and Mentoring, Institute Committee on Graduate Advising and Mentoring, and Advising and Grievance Response Team, respectively.

The Center's role will be to “enhance knowledge and skills” in “effective advising and mentoring” based on “evidence-based resources.” The Center will “reside within the Office of the Provost” and be “led by full-time, PhD-level personnel,” which is comparable to “Centers at other academic institutions.” In order to incentivize faculty and thesis supervisors, an “Institute-level award that recognizes excellence in mentoring and advising” will also be created.

The Institute Committee will stay on trends in “advising and

Graduate, Page 3



MAXIMO MACHADO—THE TECH

MIT SAAS organizes a celebration of Holi with bags of colored powder, water guns, and music, Saturday.

IHTFP

(The good one).
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DAYTRIP STOP

A true bite of France.
ARTS, p. 4



QUALITY & QUANTITY

A trip to France awaits.
ARTS, p. 4

XKCD

Thermometer.
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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Thursdays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. *Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available.* Entire contents © 2022 **The Tech**. Printed by Graphic Developments, Inc.

WEATHER

April showers bring May flowers (and cold), respectfully!

By Derek Velez

All around Boston, the trees are full of shades of white, pink, and green, the tulips in the Boston Public Gardens are reaching bloom, and allergies (and COVID o.O) are on the rise. However, we will have a small regression after Tuesday’s/Wednesday’s storm with the Boston area experiencing below average temperatures as the week comes to an end. Fret not, as seasonal spring temperatures and plenty of sun are just around the corner!

Across the country, a

storm system is building over the plains and will likely bring more severe weather to the area and heavy rain to the northern plains. Florida, along with the Pacific Northwest, can also expect some rain over the next few days. Meanwhile, the Southwest, South, and Northeast will remain relatively dry.

As you enjoy the dry weather, remember to grab a jacket or sweater for the next few days, along with a mask (encouraged)! Stay healthy and safe and enjoy the seasonal allergies and pretty flora!

Extended Forecast

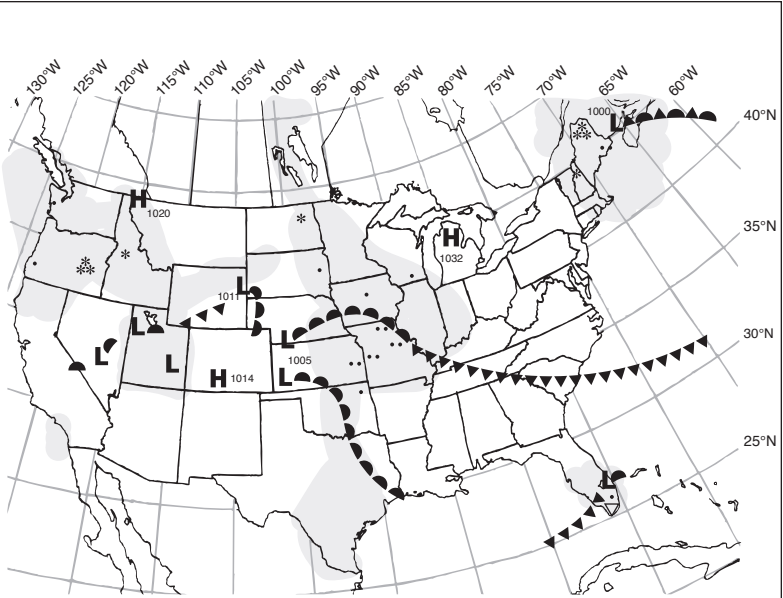
Today: Mostly sunny. High around 53°F (12°C). Breezy northwest winds ranging around 20–22 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with decreasing clouds overnight. Low around 38°F (3°C). Breezy northwest winds ranging around 16–29 mph.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny with increasing clouds during the day clearing out into the night. High around 54°F (12°C) and low around 43°F (6°C). Breezy northwest winds ranging around 18–29 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny during the day with clearing clouds overnight. High around 58°F (14°C) and low around 42°F (6°C). North winds around 11–13 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny with increasing cloud cover over night. High around 66°F (19°C) and low around 44°F (7°C). North winds shift to south winds during the day around 6–9 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, April 28, 2022

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Igel: The parody ‘Who is MIT’ posters did ‘our job for us’

Regressions, from Page 1

same fraternity. And we’ve been talking about releases and we knew we wanted to work on something together since we started going to school together. And so I made a parody of that original movie, using that movie soundtrack but MIT’s footage. I sent it to Wes and he’s like, “you have to put a script to this.” So we wrote like a two page script. Then 10 pages. 50 pages. Where it is now. We committed pretty early on that Wesley was going to be the narrator.

We’ve gone through every single decade from the point that we have footage for, onward. And we’ve gone all the way up to the inciting incident that caused us to work on this documentary in the first place, the COVID-19 pandemic.

The actual making of the movie has been really interesting. We start the movie from scratch with each decade, and each chapter gives us a way to start a new project. For each decade, we search through all of YouTube to find any archival footage of MIT. We’ve looked through archival footage of all these big universities, and MIT by far has done the best job at digitizing an archive of all of its footage from the 1920s. They put up a lot of stuff online, interviews with professors, all these admissions videos. That’s what really inspired us. We saw this one film from 1969 called “MIT: Progressions,” which has these beautiful shots of students just walking from the stud, students hanging out on the grass, taking classes in 26-100. And students talking about the political turmoil in the Vietnam protests that was happening at the time. And there was footage of that quality for pretty much every decade from the 1950s. There’s a film called “The Social Beaver” that we used. And from that point forward, we would do every Google Search possible, we would go through the Internet Archive, we would go through everything available online.

Of course this started during COVID-19. All of MIT’s libraries were completely shut down. So to cope with the fact that a lot of the footage was of pretty bad quality, we ended up running it through this AI enhancement tool. We strung together a bunch of Jupyter notebooks to automatically col-

orize and upscale the footage. It worked surprisingly well and has allowed us to get way more mileage out of our footage. Overall, we ended up developing a pipeline out of this whole thing. Wes and I wrote the script together, agonized over every single line that goes into it. Wes recorded the voiceover on his end. Nowadays we can do it in the Lewis audio library.

We have a massive index of every video we’ve ever found so that we can attribute the videos to the right people. We storyboarded it, copied and pasted stills and lined it up with the narration, edited it all together, did mixing and sound editing, and ran the footage through the AI pipeline. After all that is done, we show it to people and if they don’t like it, then we do it again.

TT: I watched the promo video you sent; there’s a lot going on even in the promo, which focuses on the 1970s. It features MIT presidents and leadership, as well as external challenges, like President Nixon’s comments about cutting federal funding. There’s also Cambridge history and challenges with housing and busing. How did you make a decision about which events to include and exclude? What did you try to focus on?

Igel: We’re biased towards things for which there’s footage, which means that a lot of the ambience of what it’s like to be at MIT is deprioritized. And what is prioritized is when something strange happens, like protests, or when Nixon’s presidential tapes leak and he’s talking about MIT.

There’s a lot more that we could choose to do, and a lot of it was determined by whether it fits with the central themes and arcs that we know to last across many decades.

And so the Nixon thing was perfect, because much of the movie is a meditation on MIT’s relationship with the federal government: how it started, how it improved, how it remained very strong, and how it eventually collapsed. MIT still receives the vast chunk of its funding from the government, but the ratio is much different from how it was before Nixon came.

There are other things like housing; when we found out about Tent City, we couldn’t believe that it actually happened. That homeless people and MIT students protested together in front of MIT in

response to what we would now call gentrification. There’s so much more media nowadays of MIT’s and Harvard’s increased gentrification of the Cambridge area. And so we figured it would fit and that it would really create this really impressive effect, if we could show that this has been going on for 50–60 years now.

If it fits the thread, there’s great footage of it, and it’s interesting, then we’re doing it.

TT: Were there any events or themes that emerged that were particularly surprising to you?

Igel: This project has taken about a year and a half. We thought it would only take three months. A lot of why it took so long is because we keep on finding these insane threads and rabbit holes. Our chapter on the 1960s lasts for 40–60 minutes or so. And that is because there’s just so much to talk about.

I was very shocked to see how all-encompassing MIT has been, especially with regard to all the alumni who come out of here, and particularly their attachment to MIT’s dorm culture and MIT’s culture in general. For example, it turns out that Claude Shannon [PhD ’40], the father of information theory, used to drive his unicycle up and down East Campus’ halls. All these different people’s countless little anecdotes really excited us.

TT: Have you shown the documentary to anyone so far? What has the process of soliciting feedback looked like?

Igel: We screened the first hour and 45 minutes, from the 1940s to the end of the 70s, for our fraternity, Phi Kappa Theta. And that itself felt like making a movie, beginning, middle and end. I was very pleased by the reaction. It felt really powerful to be able to see this stream of mini movies, all wrapped up into one long experience. Being able to hear people’s reactions was really good. I was terrified that no one was going to react and it was going to be dead silent. But watching it is like experiencing one long music video, and reacting to it with everyone else made it most meaningful.

TT: When did you start putting up the “Who is MIT” posters to advertise? Did you intend for them to be linked to the event?

Igel: We wanted to have a teaser one month before the premiere, so around April 1. The posters were

Wesley’s idea. And I was scared at first because I was like “this makes our movie look way more combative, way more controversial than it is,” but he did it anyway. And every single person we showed it to had a wildly different reaction, which is exactly what we wanted. And it was memeable too. So we printed out 1,000 posters, made like 12 different variants, and got as many friends as possible to pepper them throughout campus.

We were not expecting all the parody posters and all that came around. But a lot of the parody posters were doing our job for us; they still had “5-1-22,” which is what we wanted, so we were more than happy. The goal was to set up the ultimate reveal, which was the canonical posters, the Instagram release, and all of the pubbing we’re doing now.

TT: Is there a central theme/takeaway from the film, or something in particular you hope the audience leaves with?

Igel: Something that the audience needs is an understanding that there is such a massive, vast array of threads and storylines that are taking place in this portion of MIT’s history that we cover, and although we’re only giving you a snippet of it, we do hope to give people a greater understanding and an emotional understanding of what students were going through when they were living in the exact same doors as us, when they’re taking the same class as us decades prior.

We also hope that the audience comes away with an understanding that all the different elements of our lives, the institutions we have, like pass/fail or the reason why our housing situation looks the way it does is MIT’s heart in general.

Those are all very determined by these vast historical forces.

One of our primary goals is that we want to become part of the canon of the movies that inspired us to make this one.

Every 10–20 years there is a really important movie about MIT, usually made by MIT students. “MIT: Progressions” was the primary one we built on. Each one of them really transports you to what life was like back then. And we hope to be able to do the same, both by looking back at those and also creating a snapshot of what the past few years have been.

Committee ‘sought input from’ faculty committees, student groups, key staff

Graduate, from Page 1

mentoring,” “raise awareness of resources and best practices,” and “work closely with stakeholders on select Strategies.” This Committee will report to the Chancellor, which represents and exemplifies the “shared responsibility of faculty and graduate students” in a

“professional relationship.” Committee membership will consist of a rotating Committee chair and faculty members (five total), graduate students (five total) including the Graduate Student Council (GSC) president, and staff (five total) including the Senior Associate Dean of Office of Graduate Education (OGE).

The Grievance Response Team will serve as an “entry point” “to report a grievance” and prepare an “annual aggregated report” to share with the MIT community. The team will be “composed of representatives from OGE and/or Institute Discrimination & Harassment Response and/or Human Resources. The duration of

this role is “anticipated to be two years.”

Hammond and Jamison wrote in the email that the Committee was “inspired” by the work of GSC, “local efforts” in “schools and the college,” and the “support of MIT’s senior officers.” They thanked those who helped for their “dedication, creativity, thoughtfulness, and col-

laborative spirit.”

Hammond and Jamison wrote they “consulted and sought input from faculty committees, student groups, and key staff” and emphasized that “that work will continue.”

Students can send feedback to the Committee by emailing gradadv_feedback@mit.edu or through its website.

COVID-19 allowed RingComm to afford venue typically ‘far out of budget’

Ring Delivery, from Page 1

ally showed!” Sadhana Lolla ’24 told *The Tech* in an interview. “From the ice sculpture to the live band to the food, everything was really well put together and it was an incredible way to celebrate being halfway through our journey at MIT.”

Differently from the Class of 2023’s event, which took place October 2021 and where masks were

required, COVID-19 had “very little impact” on the Class of 2024’s Ring Delivery, though the committee did develop contingency plans in case the situation worsened, Struckman said.

Struckman said the choice of Fairmont Copley as the venue was motivated by the Ring Committee’s preference for “old-world glamour detail above some of the more modern choices like the State Room” in

order to have a “more fairytale kind of budget.”

Struckman also noted that a hotel like the Fairmont Copley would usually be “far out of budget, but because of COVID their rates had dropped enough for the committee to be able to afford it.”

On behalf of the Ring Committee, Struckman said that she hopes “Ring Delivery was an event befitting of such a momentous moment,

and that everyone had a wonderful night full of great memories.”

Shriya Rangaswamy ’24 concurred in an interview with *The Tech*, saying that the event was “a very memorable evening and felt like a true commemoration of the very unique experience that we as sophomores had at MIT.”

Additionally, Rangaswamy said that it was “really nice to finally see so many members of our class in

one place and have us bond over this quintessential part of our MIT experience.”

Servicing for students whose rings did not fit and ring pick-up for students who did not attend the event was available from Herff Jones at the Stratton Student Center the Monday and Tuesday following Ring Delivery.

Srinidhi Narayanan contributed to the reporting of this article.

Solution to Two-ish
from page 6

7	9	3	6	2	1	5	4	8
1	6	4	7	8	5	9	2	3
5	2	8	3	9	4	7	1	6
6	8	7	4	3	2	1	5	9
3	1	5	8	7	9	4	6	2
9	4	2	5	1	6	8	3	7
8	7	6	1	4	3	2	9	5
2	3	1	9	5	8	6	7	4
4	5	9	2	6	7	3	8	1

Solution to Weeks
from page 6

4	2	3	1	6	5
6	4	5	3	2	1
5	3	4	2	1	6
1	5	6	4	3	2
2	6	1	5	4	3
3	1	2	6	5	4

Solution to Music Holders
from page 6


HERE	PEST	POLAR
OPEN	AXLE	EPOXY
WINE	REIN	TEPEE
COMPACT	DISCS	
YAK	SAM	
ITE	WEBS	MATTER
DRAT	EATS	RHODE
EIGHT	TRACK	TAPES
ALLEY	BRAN	NINE
SLEEPS	TREE	CST
ITS	EGG	
VINYL	RECORDS	
ALONG	AURA	ARID
HAITI	BLIP	DOZE
ADDON	SEES	EPEE

Solution to Left!!
from page 7

7	2	4	3	9	8	1	5	6
3	7	9	8	5	4	6	1	2
9	4	6	5	2	1	3	7	8
2	6	8	7	4	3	5	9	1
1	5	7	6	3	2	4	8	9
4	8	1	9	6	5	7	2	3
5	9	2	1	7	6	8	3	4
6	1	3	2	8	7	9	4	5
8	3	5	4	1	9	2	6	7

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Join the Technology Department!
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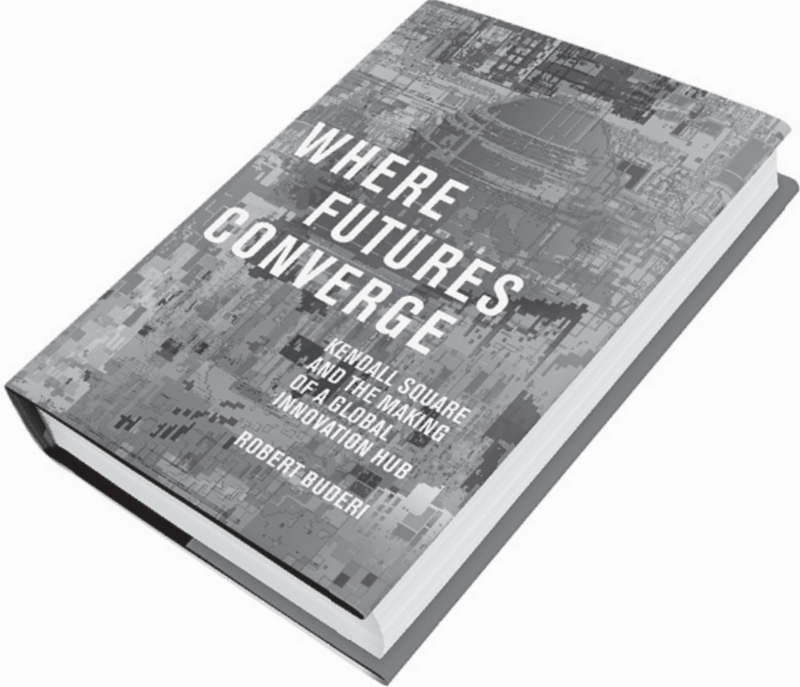
authors
@mit




Where Futures Converge
With Robert Buder

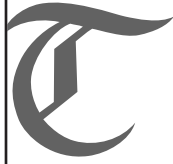
Tuesday, May 10 @ 5:30pm • MIT Hayden Library

Learn more about the cycles of change and reinvention that created today’s most innovative square mile on the planet: Kendall Square.

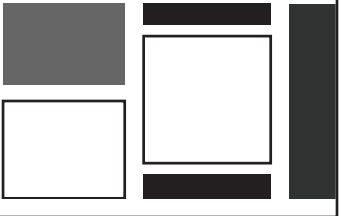




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Do you think YOU can fit the page better than we did?
Join Production, Get Paid, Eat Dinner!
join@tech.mit.edu



Let them eat cake

By Mindy Long
ARTS EDITOR

Colette is just as cozy from the inside as

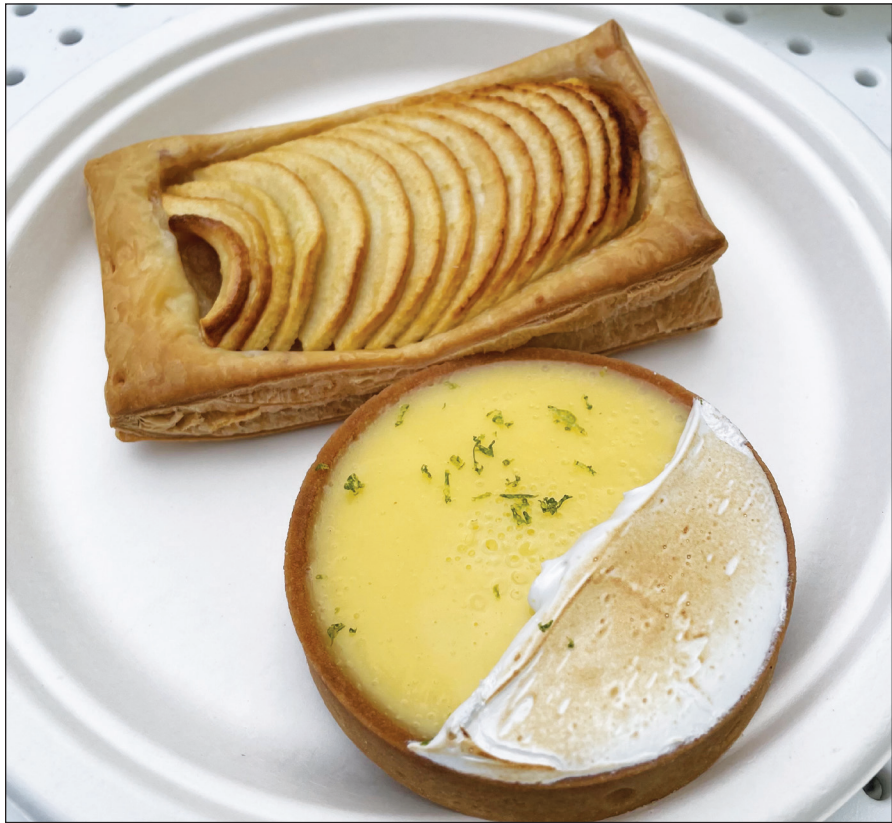
Similar to Caramel French Patisserie in Somerville, Colette offers a large selection of *pâtes* and *pains*. Tarts include passionfruit, lemon, raspberry, *amandine* (pear and almond — a favorite of the French),

At Colette, I first ordered the lemon and apple tarts while my friend Erika tried the *amandine*. Not only did the tarts surpass that of Caramel, they also surpassed the ones I ate in France. The apple tart was crispier, and the apples themselves were slightly sour, contrasting well against the jam. The lemon tart was half covered with toasted meringue, a must for an authentic lemon tart. The tangy lemon custard paired with the firm but crumbly crust was a delight for my tastebuds. Erika's *amandine*, however, was my favorite. Circular in shape like the lemon tart and with the same crumbly crust, the toasted pears and jam sprinkled with almond slices produced a rich fruity and nutty taste without being overly sweet.

Eager for more, I went back inside to try a *quiche lorraine*, *flan parisien*, *pain au chocolat*, and *croissant*. I noticed that the *amandines* were sold out, despite there being four or five left when we arrived 20 minutes prior. Each of the four pastries I bought did not disappoint. The cashier heated up my *quiche lorraine*, which was stuffed with cream, cheese, mushroom, caramelized onion, and ham. The buttery crust was sturdy and the filling was rich with flavor. The flan was the best I've had in my entire life — across all the bakeries and cafes in Spain, France, and Mexico where I've tried the dessert. The vanilla custard was thick and contained the perfect ratio of eggs, milk, and cream. The perfectly broiled top added a hint of texture and sugar to the pastry. The *pain au chocolat* and *croissant* were flaky delicacies, carefully buttered in layers upon layers of dough.

Hours:
Wednesday–Friday 7
a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday–Sunday 8
a.m.–4 p.m.

What are you waiting for? A trip to France awaits.



MINDY LONG—THE TECH

The tarte aux pommes and tarte au citron at Colette Bakery taste as good as they look.

A Davis Square delight

Hours:
Wednesday–Friday 11
a.m.–7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.–7 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

By Mindy Long
ARTS EDITOR

Operated by two French siblings, Caramel French Patisserie is located just off the Davis MBTA Red Line station, sandwiched between bars, thrift stores, and a wide array of restaurants. Caramel opened in Somerville in 2017, though its original location in Salem has been open since 2015. Upon entering, a line of *macarons* and *gâteaux* are displayed to the right, with flavors ranging from lavender and rose to coconut and Earl Gray. Pistachio *macarons*, a favorite of Eu-

Wanting a variety, I ordered a *tarte aux pommes* (apple tart), *tarte aux abricots* (apricot tart), and a lavender *macaron*. Both tarts were flat, rectangular, and glazed in butter, resembling the ones I ate in Nice. The apple tart was dusted with cinnamon, and the apple slices were nested in apple jam atop the crust. The crust was delicate and buttery, contrasting the sweetness of the apple jam and slices. The apricot tart resembled the apple tart except that the four slices of apricot sat in an egg custard. This gave the apricot tart a richer taste, as the creamy but not too-sweet custard cushioned the slight sourness of the apricots and the dry flakes of the crust. The apricot tart was my favorite of the two due to its expert mixing of three flavors and textures. The lavender *macaron* I ordered was underwhelming compared to the tarts. The almond pastry felt deflated and its filling was too sweet. My friend Erika, who accompanied me to both bakeries that day, ordered the desert of the day, which resembled a more robust *Paris-Brest* with a vanilla-chocolate creme blend filling. The hazelnut shell was crunchy and went well against the light creme interior. Had I not subsequently visited Colette Bakery in Medford, I would

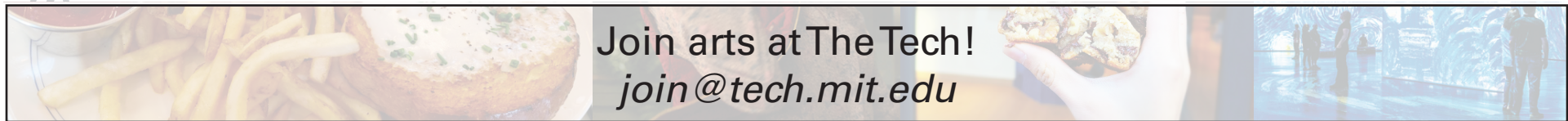
Just three T stops away from MIT, Caramel French Patisserie is a convenient trip to make for any student wishing to sample a true bite of France. Not only are the pastries affordable, with large tarts costing

less than \$5 and raspberry and chocolate mousse cakes costing less than \$6, Caramel also has a number of shopping and entertainment options nearby, like Magpie and the Somerville Theater, making Caramel the perfect stop for a snack or a daytrip to Somerville.



MINDY LONG—THE TECH

The tarte aux abricots (apricot tart) at Caramel French Patisserie is crispy and sweet.



VIVIAN’S REFLECTIONS

Why I chose MIT

A trip down memory lane

By Vivian Hir
STAFF WRITER

I entered high school not having MIT on my mind. When I walked around MIT’s campus as a 14 year old, I didn’t see myself being a student here. I was a tourist. A random high schooler sitting with other prospective students in the large lecture hall of 26-100.

The idea of going to MIT was a dream. But despite viewing MIT as some faraway and unreachable place, when I got back home I was still curious about the university, so I went on the MIT Admissions blogs to gain further insight into the college applications process.

Over time, I continued reading the blogs to learn more about MIT. I grew to love MIT’s culture, and I liked the blogger community. I appreciated the bloggers’ authenticity and honesty, something that I didn’t find on other college blogs. The blogs made me aware of the various challenges that MIT presented to students, yet that didn’t deter me from applying. I fell in love with MIT because I saw these students as the type of people who would support

me when I felt down and inspire me to use science and technology to improve society. I knew that college would not be easy no matter where I went. Being a more optimistic person back then, I thought that the academic rigor and difficulty would benefit me in the long term, even if that meant dealing with the plethora of stress found at MIT.

What started for me as a website for high school and college advice ended up becoming a website for leisure and internet rabbit holes on the weekends. As the months passed by, I grew more certain that my dream school was MIT. Even though some of the subjects on the blogs were recurrent, such as academics, there was always also something new. These random topics excited me, whether it was IAP trips or a student-built boba machine. The more I read the blogs, the more I wanted to be a part of MIT. I admired the students’ passion in areas that went beyond STEM: arts, music, education outreach, and so much more.

When it came time to decide between different universities, I did not like the idea of missing out on certain aspects of one college by choosing another, but I knew such an outcome was inevitable. I simply could

not have everything all at once. After spending months reading the blogs throughout high school, it was clear that I would commit to MIT.

First off, I wanted to move to a completely new region of the U.S. and live in a city. The research and academic opportunities at the other university I was considering were arguably just as good as MIT’s, but I believed that MIT’s science-focused environment was more suitable for me.

Another major factor was MIT’s unique housing system and dorm culture. The idea of living in New House’s cultural houses was very appealing to me because their small size and distinct personalities allowed them to be very tight-knit. I also liked the idea of living with upperclassmen because they would serve as great peer mentors. In hindsight, I probably would have found a nice social circle at the other university if I chose the right dorm, but I can’t imagine how things would turn out to be.

It has been a year since I clicked on that accept button and joined the MIT Class of 2025. I have to admit that there have been moments in which I was so stressed that I wondered whether my life at that other uni-

versity would have been happier and easier. Sometimes, the coursework at MIT has shaken my confidence and made me say IHTFP in my head on repeat. But overall I don’t regret my decision and I am glad that I chose MIT.

I cherish and love the communities I found here, from dorm life to clubs. Many years after graduating from MIT, what will stay with me isn’t the knowledge I learned to earn my degree but rather the many memories I made with the people here. I won’t forget the time when more than a hundred students across all class years sang songs together past midnight in the Next House basement during CPW. I won’t forget the contagious energy and enthusiasm at ESP Firestorm where I saw students present on random topics from South Dakota to Scrabble in five minutes or less. I mean, where else can I find people that also share this nerdy sense of humor?

I am aware that MIT will present me with greater challenges in the future. Despite this, I look forward to making new friends and becoming closer to my existing friends through meaningful social experiences during my four years at MIT.

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Weeks

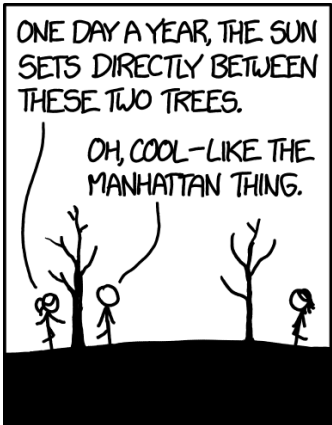
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Music Holders by Doug Peterson

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[1622] Henge



'I've got the Craigslist post ready to go! I wasn't sure what category it should go in, so I listed it as property and put that it has good sun exposure.'

join@tech.mit.edu

